

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing configuration information for a bridged virtual local area network (VLAN) within a communication network, comprising the steps of:
 - a. presenting a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator;
 - b. receiving from the operator an identification of a node and of a physical port through the GUI;
 - ~~c. when the VLAN is not an existing VLAN, receiving a requested VLAN identifier (ID) from the operator through the GUI, and validating the requested VLAN ID received from the operator in step d by comparing the requested VLAN ID with VLAN IDs in a list of VLAN configurations for VLANs which are configured on the node;~~
 - c. if the requested VLAN ID is valid, receiving a validated VLAN configuration information from the operator through the GUI, wherein the VLAN configuration information comprises a requested VLAN identifier (ID) and at least one virtual port to be associated with a set of the VLAN;
 - d. validating the VLAN configuration information;
 - e. generating locally a validated VLAN configuration according to the VLAN configuration information, wherein the validated VLAN configuration comprises a first set of at least one virtual port to be associated with the VLAN and a second set of zero or more virtual ports which cannot be assigned to the VLAN; and
 - e.f. transmitting the validated VLAN configuration to the node.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving a ~~validated~~-VLAN configuration information comprises receiving, from the operator through the GUI, ~~and an~~ identification of at least one virtual port currently belonging to a member set of the VLAN, said at least ~~one~~ one virtual port being selected by the operator from a list of virtual ports currently in the member set.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of receiving a ~~validated~~-VLAN configuration information further comprises the steps of:
 - a. receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of zero or more virtual ports currently belonging to a forbidden set of the VLAN; and
 - b. receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of zero or more virtual ports currently belonging to an untagged set of the VLAN; and wherein the step of validating the VLAN configuration information comprises:
 - c. ensuring that the member set and the forbidden set have no virtual ports in common.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising the steps of~~ wherein the step of validating the VLAN configuration information comprises:
 - a. determining from the existing configuration information a number of VLANs currently configured on the physical port; and
 - b. ensuring that the configuration ~~of~~ of the bridged VLAN on the physical port would not violate a maximum limit of VLANs on the physical port.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of storing the ~~valid~~ validated configuration information at a network management system.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the node is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode node.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the bridged VLAN is in conformance with the 802.1q VLAN standard.
9. (Currently Amended) A system including at least one device capable of presenting graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator, the at least one device comprising a processor for providing configuration information for a bridged virtual local area network (VLAN) within a communication network, comprising:
 - a. instructions for presenting said graphical user interface (GUI) to the operator;
 - b. instructions for receiving an identification of a node and of a physical port through the GUI;
 - ~~c. instructions for receiving, when the VLAN is not an existing VLAN, a VLAN identifier (ID) from the operator through the GUI, and validating the requested VLAN ID with VLAN IDs in a list of VLAN configurations for VLANs which are configured on the node;~~
 - d. instructions for receiving if the requested VLAN ID is valid, a validated VLAN configuration information from the operator through the GUI, wherein the VLAN configuration information comprises a requested VLAN identifier (ID) and at least one virtual port to be associated with a set of the VLAN; and

- d. instructions for validating the VLAN configuration information;
- e. instructions for generating locally a validated VLAN configuration according to the VLAN configuration information, wherein the validated VLAN configuration comprises a first set of at least one virtual port to be associated with the VLAN and a second set of zero or more virtual ports which cannot be assigned to the VLAN; and
- e.f. instructions for transmitting the validated VLAN configuration to the node.

10.(Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the instructions for receiving a ~~validated-VLAN configuration information~~ information comprise instructions for receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of at least one virtual port currently belonging to a member set of the VLAN, said at least one virtual port being selected by the operator from a list of virtual ports currently in the member set.

11.(Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the instructions for receiving a ~~validated-VLAN configuration information~~ information further comprise:

- a. instructions for receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of zero or more virtual ports currently belonging to a forbidden set of the VLAN; and
- b. instructions for receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of zero or more virtual ports currently belonging to an untagged set of the VLAN; and

wherein the instructions for validating the VLAN configuration information comprise:

- c. instructions for ensuring that the member set and the forbidden set have no virtual ports in common.

12.(Canceled)

13.(Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 ~~further comprising wherein the~~
instructions for validating the VLAN configuration information comprise:

- a. instructions for determining from the existing configuration information ~~on~~ a number of VLANs currently configured on the physical port; and
- b. instructions for ensuring that configuration of of ~~to~~ the bridged VLAN on the physical port would not violate a maximum limit of VLANs on the physical port.

14.(Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 further comprising instructions for storing ~~valid~~ the validated configuration information at a network management system.

15.(Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the node is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode node.

16.(Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the bridged VLAN is in conformance with the 802.1q VLAN standard.

17.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 comprising the further steps of querying the node for the list of VLAN configurations which are currently configured on the node and storing the list.

- 18.(Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 further comprising instructions for querying the node for the list of VLAN configurations which are currently configured on the node and storing the list.
- 19.(New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of validating the VLAN configuration information comprises, if the VLAN is a new VLAN, validating the requested VLAN ID by comparing the requested VLAN ID with VLAN IDs in a list of VLAN configurations for VLANs that are configured on the node.
- 20.(New) The system of claim 9 wherein the instructions for validating the VLAN configuration information further comprises instructions for, if the VLAN is a new VLAN, validating the requested VLAN ID by comparing the requested VLAN ID with VLAN IDs in a list of VLAN configurations for VLANs that are configured on the node.
- 21.(New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating a validated VLAN configuration comprises the steps of:
- a. removing at least one port identified by the operator through the GUI from a list to which the at least one port currently belongs; and
 - b. adding the at least one port to a list identified by the operator through the GUI.
- 22.(New) The system of claim 9 wherein the instructions for generating a validated VLAN configuration comprise instructions for:
- a. removing at least one port identified by the operator through the GUI from a list to which the at least one port currently belongs; and

- b. adding the at least one port to a list identified by the operator through the GUI.

23.(New) The method of claim 1 wherein the first set is a member set of the VLAN and the second set is a forbidden set of the VLAN.

24.(New) The system of claim 9 wherein the first set is a member set of the VLAN and the second set is a forbidden set of the VLAN.